

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 /057 W

----- 051641

R 250818Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4965

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 2247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S STAND ON RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS"

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 24 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO A CNA DESPATCH ENTITLED "RELEASED WARCrimINALS" "ARE MAO'S TOOLS." THE CNA DESPATCH QUOTED "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT THE GROC HAS CONSISTENTLY WELCOMED "ALL ANTI-COMMUNIST FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO COME TO FREE CHINA." BUT THE RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS" HAVE "REPEATEDLY MADE EXTREMELY ABSURD COMMENTS IN HONG KONG TO APPEASE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS." "IF THEY HAVE THEIR OWN FREE WILL, THEY WOULD MAKE CLEAR THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-MAO STAND, PLEDGING TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF MAINLAND RECOVERY AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. AND IF THEY WANT TO COME TO FREE CHINA, THEY SHOULD TAKE THE USUAL LEGAL PROCEDURES."

2. AN APRIL 24 CHUNG HUA JIH PAO EDITORIAL SAID THAT IF THE "WAR CRIMINALS" OPENLY ANNOUNCED THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND AND APPLY FOR ENTRY PERMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, THEY WILL BE WELCOMED. BUT IF THEY WISH TO ACT AS TOOLS OF PEKING'S UNITED FRONT OPERATIONS, "WE CERTAINLY WILL

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REJECT THEM."

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE SO-CALLED WAR CRIMINALS DURING HIS APRIL 18 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST ONLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PRESS HERE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE EXISTENCE OF THE TEN RELEASEES WAITING IN HONG KONG.

4. THE BREAKING OF THE STORY IN THE PRESS AS WELL AS RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND A HIGHLY-PLACED KMT OFFICIAL INDICATE THAT THE GROC HAS REACHED A FIRM DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT THE TEN "WAR CRIMINALS" UNLESS TWO CONDITIONS ARE MET: A) THEY PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND AND B) THEY APPLY FOR ENTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROC LAW. THESE PRECONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY THE FORMER, ARE LIKELY TO MEET WITH WIDE APPROVAL HERE SINCE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEN ON AN UNCONDITIONAL BASIS WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY MANY AS THE FIRST STEP IN OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRC - A STEP WHICH WOULD RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO GIMO'S "WILL" AND OFT-DECLARED POLICY OF PREMIER AND KMT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ANTICOMMUNIST, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI02247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-1047
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaanog.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC'S STAND ON RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS"
TAGS: PINT, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006